(a) whether it is a fact that small firms face severe hardships due to delays in obtaining clearances for any crew or task force which has Chinese component;

(b) how many weeks or months are required by Government to give routine visa clearance for crew required for fishing activities;

(c) what steps are proposed to make efficient the grant of security clearance for fishing crews and ship crew if such people hold Chinese citizenship;

(d) the exact number of applications pending for fishing crew clearance with Government; and

(e) the date from which such applications are pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) There is no general ban on employment of foreigners, including crews in India. However, such foreigners need to qualify in terms of eligibility as laid down for grant of visa. Grant of visa to such foreigners is also made subject to security verification wherever put in place or appear appropriate and necessary.

(b) Government conveys the clearance as expeditiously as possible, subject to security verification,.wherever required.

(c) The visa guidelines for Chinese nationals have recently been liberalized, while maintaining the necessity of security verification wherever in place.

(d) and (e) In the year 2006,19 cases for fishing crew clearance were received till 16.11.2006 from Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and clearance in all cases have been sent.

Working group on autonomy for J&K

806. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister promised recently to set up a working group to discuss greater federal autonomy for J&K; and

(b) if so, what is the status of the promise and whether it is still under active consideration, since it would be a historical break through?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) During the Second Round Table Conference held in Srinagar on May 24-25,2006, the Prime Minister suggested the setting up of five Working Groups including one on strengthening relations between State and Centre. This Working Group has since been constituted by the State Government.

Shopping malls in Delhi

807. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of shopping malls operating/under construction in Delhi, their locations and the total cost incurred on their construction including land cost;

(b) whether a number of shopping malls are operating in Delhi without mandatory completion certificate issued by MCD/DDA;

(c) if so, the action taken against all such malls;

(d) whether proper fire safety and other safety measures have not been taken by these malls and if so, the details of action taken by the authorities concerned and Delhi Fire Service; and

(e) the number of persons killed in these malls during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Anti-insurgency doctrine for Central Security Forces

808. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved anti-insurgency doctrine for the Central Security Forces;